



GP3672

PATENT
64552.0166

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.8, I hereby certify that I have information and a reasonable basis for belief that this correspondence will be deposited as first-class mail with the United States Postal Service in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on May 3, 1999.

[Signature]
Signature

5-3-99
Date

#63 of
time
(2 mos.)
E. J. H. H. H.
5/20/99

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Richardson, et al.

Serial No.: 08/877,738

Filed: June 17, 1997

Invention: Drilling Method and Apparatus

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Group No.: 3672

Examiner: Schoeppel, Roger

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GROUP 3600

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED DECEMBER 3, 1998 AND PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed December 3, 1998, the applicants
submits this response.

05/07/1999 ABRAHIM 00000044 08877738

01 FC:116

380.00 OP

Petition for Extension of Time

The applicant petitions for a two-month extension of time under 37 C.F.R.

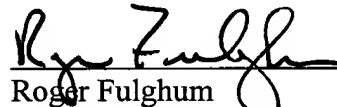
1.136 up to and including May 3, 1999. A check for \$380.00 for a two-month extension of time is

included. Applicant hereby authorizes the Patent and Trademark Office to charge deposit account number 02-0383 for any other charges necessary for the filing of this response.

Election

The Examiner has issued a restriction requirement in this action, requiring that the applicant elect for prosecution the claims of Group I (claims 1-3 or 5-7) or the claims of Group II (claim 4). Applicants elect to prosecute in this application the claims of Group 1 (claims 1-3 and 5-7). Please cancel claim 4.

Respectfully submitted,



Roger Fulghum
Registration No. 39,678

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Baker & Botts Docket Number: 64552.0166
Date: May 3, 1999